



**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Friday, January 16, 2009

From: Craig Thomas, OSC

To: Tom Geishecker, U.S. EPA
Linda Nachowicz, ERB 2
Rick Lanham, Illinois EPA
Dion Novak, U.S. EPA
Gary King, Illinois EPA
Michael Berkoff, U.S. EPA
Terry Ayers, Illinois EPA

Jason El-Zein, U.S. EPA, ERB 1
David Chung, U.S. EPA
William Messenger, U.S. EPA
William Baran, Hillsboro, IL
Wendy Carney, U.S. EPA
Clarence Smith, Illinois EPA

Subject: First and Final
Eagle Zinc Site
218 Industrial Park Drive, Hillsboro, IL

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	B5Y7
Reporting Period:	12/15/08 - 1/16/09	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	12/15/2008	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:		Response Type:	Emergency
Completion Date:	1/9/2009	NPL Status:	NPL
CERCLIS ID #:	ILD980606941	Incident Category:	Removal Action
RCRIS ID #:		Contract #	

Site Description

The city of Hillsboro, Illinois is the county seat of Montgomery County with a population of 5,515, according to 2000 census data. The site is about 132 acres in size and is on the east side of Hillsboro, north of State Route 16. About 13 acres of the site are covered with buildings. Two ponds are located on the Site - one in the southeast portion and one in the southwest portion. The nearest home is part of a residential area about 200 feet southwest of the Site. The nearest school is Burbank Grade School, which is about 0.25 miles southwest of the Site. Homes to the east of the Site are in an area known as Schram City. Northeast of the Site are a former glass company and trucking firm. North of the Site is a small subdivision and a few small businesses. Low-income multifamily public housing units, a few mobile homes, and privately-owned, single-family homes adjoin the western Site property line.

The plant operated as a zinc oxide manufacturer from 1914 through 2003. Construction of the zinc facility began around 1910 and early operations reportedly began in 1914. The plant manufactured zinc metal and zinc oxide. The method of making zinc oxide used zinc feedstock and anthracite coal. The fuel and feed stocks were delivered to the Site by rail or by truck. Feed stocks varied in quality and included crude or lower-quality zinc byproducts

from other manufacturing facilities.

An Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) inspection in 1973 found that scrap metal, furnace residue, and metal-bearing material sorted by percentage of zinc were stored on the ground. At one time, much of the southwest corner of the property was covered with piles of a black residue. At times, efforts were made to ship this residue to other facilities to recover zinc, copper, and carbon, but these efforts were costly and limited in times of low market values. During the years of operation, large amounts of slag (a by-product of the manufacturing process) were produced and placed in waste piles or spread on the ground throughout the facility. The facility is currently vacant.

Eagle Picher operated the plant until around 1980. Sherwin-Williams operated the facility from around 1980 to 1984. From 1984 to 2003, the Eagle Zinc Company, a division of T.L. Diamond & Company, Inc., operated the facility. In 1981 and 1982, Illinois EPA sampled surface water and determined that elevated levels of zinc, cadmium, iron, lead, and copper were migrating off the Site. In 1984, Sherwin Williams, under the supervision of Illinois EPA, removed approximately 18,000 tons of residue materials from 10 acres of the Site to reduce impacts on surface water. Raw materials, products, and wastes have regularly been placed on the ground for on-Site storage and disposal. No liners or dikes were constructed under or around these piles. Much of the material was at the southwest corner of the site. The spent materials have included rotary furnace residue, rotary furnace clean out, carbon plant hutch, muffle dross, building demolition debris, spent fire brick, silica-slugs (zinc silicates, zinc ferrites, and iron silicates), and carbonaceous iron slag.

A significant amount of the slag within the facility is stored in two waste piles. One waste pile occupies approximately seven acres and rises up to 15 feet above grade and is located on the southern portion of the facility. The second waste pile occupies approximately 10 acres. It has an average depth of at least one inch and is located on the northwestern half of the facility.

Contaminants of concern associated with the slag piles are metals, primarily cadmium, lead and zinc.

Although there is a gate across the main access road at the southeast end of the site, the only fencing at the site consists of a few strands of barbed wire around the northwestern perimeter of the site, which in several areas has been trodden down. The Site may be easily accessed from large areas of the eastern and western perimeters. Access from the north is somewhat restricted due to a large stand of trees and dense vegetation. A small creek and steep hills limit site access from the south.

This Emergency Stabilization was conducted to further limit site access by installing additional fence in certain site areas.

Current Activities

U.S. EPA and ERRS mobilized to the site on December 15, 2008. After meeting with

representatives from Illinois EPA, the extent of additional fencing to be installed in this Emergency Stabilization was determined.

U.S. EPA directed ERRS to begin installing the additional perimeter fence, and erect Superfund Site signs along the fence.

Fence posts, fencing and Superfund Site signs were installed between December 15 and January 9th. Approximately 2,150 feet of fencing was installed.

Planned Removal Actions

None at this time. This Emergency Stabilization has been completed.

Next Steps

U.S. EPA's Remedial Program and Illinois EPA will work to address remaining site issues.

Key Issues

Weather and issues with the fencing subcontractor resulted in a delay in completing the Emergency Stabilization.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$75,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$30,000.00	40.00%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct (Region, HQ)	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Site Costs	\$80,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$30,000.00	37.50%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.